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microscopes. Only a limited number of students can be accommodated; and applicants should state the amount of their previous experience in such work.

MICROSCOPIC OBJECTS.—Mr. M. A. Booth, of Longmeadow, Mass., is furnishing unmounted objects, by mail, at the price of one dollar for twenty-five packets. Printed lists of the objects offered can be obtained from him.

Mr. Geo. W. Morehouse, of Wayland, N. Y., has issued a list of mounted objects, chiefly animal substances and preparations of various kinds, which he is offering for sale at thirty cents each, or four for one dollar.

Mr. David Folsom, of Chicopee, Mass., has also undertaken to prepare objects for sale, or mount them to order.

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— At the last meeting of the State Natural History Society of Illinois, Professor J. G. Forbes said that the time for argument in scientific societies respecting the truth of the doctrine of evolution had passed, as scientific men were substantially agreed that it was either strictly true or a close approximation to the truth. He traced the rapid progress of the doctrine in this country, accounting for this by the fact that naturalists found its principles continually verified by new discoveries springing up all over the earth. This point was illustrated by some of his own observations on the development and anatomy of certain fishes, of which he had made a special study.

Passing to the application of the development theory, the speaker took up, as an instance of its practical uses, the subject of the restocking of our waters with their native species of fish. He criticized the idea put forward by prominent fish-culturists, that fishes could be artificially multiplied to such a degree that it would make no difference how or when or in what numbers, they were captured, showing that this idea involved a contradiction of the doctrine of natural selection. The conclusion was reached that the protection of fishes was fully as important as their artificial multiplication. He showed that the food supplies of fishes were diminished by the drainage of swamps, restriction of overflows by levees, and other operations attendant upon the settlement of a country; and that it was therefore not to be expected that the fishes of a body of water could be permanently kept up to as high a number as occurred there naturally in a state of primeval nature.

— The fourth session of the Marine Laboratory maintained by the Johns Hopkins University in connection with its biological department, will commence at Beaufort, N. C., May 2, 1881. The session will continue until the end of August. Dr. W. K. Brooks, Associate in Biology and Assistant Professor of Comparative Anatomy, will be in immediate charge as director.

The Laboratory is provided with a steam launch; small boats, nets, dredges, aquaria, microscopes, reagents, and a small reference library are also supplied by the University, for their use. Those admitted to the Laboratory will be charged a fee of $25.

The Marine Laboratory is designed for advanced students and for those qualified to carry on original investigation. No definite courses of instruction will be given, as the persons received will be presumed to have sufficient knowledge to carry on their studies without such aid. Dr. Brooks will, however, exercise a general supervision, and control and direct the daily work of the Laboratory. Board and lodging may be obtained in the town of Beaufort near the Laboratory, for from $20 to $30 per month.

— That germs of disease may live long, seems to be proved by recent experiments of a French Committee directed by M. Pasteur. Seven sheep were led daily, for a few hours, to a piece of ground where some animals that died of anthracoid disease, or *charbon*, had been buried *twelve years previously*. Two of them caught the disease and died. There was no grass for the sheep to eat, and it is thought those two must have received the germs in the course of smelling about the ground, as sheep generally do. It may be added that on some ground of that farm, where diseased animals had been buried, vegetables are now grown; and M. Pasteur asked the farmer if any employés, etc., about the farm have been affected. He knew of none, but showed a healed sore of malignant pustule (the same kind of disease) on his own face. M. Pasteur supposes that if the vegetables eaten had not been cooked, there might have been a different tale. The disease, too, might be communicated by the agency of insects, etc.—*English Mechanic.*

— Pasteur has found on taking fowl cholera poison from a a fowl which has died, not of acute but of chronic disease, and cultivating this in several solutions of fowl-broth, that on transferring it in succession from one to the other, it suffers no diminution of its virulence in the passage. However, experiments made by varying the length of the periods of time during which the solutions are left intact, after having the parasite added to them, show that the time allowed for its development is an important element in the question. Thus, with intervals of only from one day to two months between any two successive inoculations of the solutions, no modifications of their virulence is experienced; though in proportion as the interval is increased, signs of such a modification appear in the slowness with which death occurs, and in the diminished acuteness of the preliminary symptoms.

— The Kansas Academy of Science, at their November meeting, appointed a Commission to memorialize the Legislature in reference to a State Survey. Two preliminary surveys under Professors Mudge and Swallow have already been made. A more extended and thorough scientific survey is now needed. The most active geologist now in the field in this State is Professor O. W. John, who for two years past has studied the stratigraphical geology of eastern Kansas.

— Last summer Professor F. H. Snow, with several assistants, spent over a month in Santa Fé Cañon, New Mexico, as well as in Colorado, and made important entomological collections, among them were twelve new species of Coleoptera, and an interesting collection of geometrid moths, comprising a number new to the Colorado plateau region.

— The French zoölogical station at Roscoff has been making good progress of late. It has now an aquarium of one hundred square meters extent, and a good steamer for excursions; and is soon to be provided with a pond and a diving dress. M. Lacaze-Duthiers, who founded this station, announces the establishment of a second one at Port Vendres.

— The death is announced of Dr. John Jeremiah Bigsby, F.R.S., a well-known writer on palæozoic fossils, at the advanced age of 88 years. The greater part of his life was spent in Canada and in the United States, and his writings on American geology date back to 1820, when he contributed a paper to *Silliman's Journal.* Dr. Bigsby's best-known works are his "Thesaurus Siluricus," which appeared in 1868, and his "Thesaurus Devonica-Carboniferus," published ten years later. The "Bigsby Medal," which he presented to the Geological Society of London a few years ago, was awarded at the anniversary meeting on Friday, the 18th inst., to the French geologist, M. Charles Barrois.

— Professor Tennant, for many years professor of geology in King's College, London, died early in March, aged 72. Gabriel Koch, a well-known lepidopterist of Frankfort-on-the-Main, died in February, aged 80; also Professor Gorini, of Lodi, known by his works on volcanic phenomena.

— Edward R. Alston died at the age of 35 years, was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland. He was an excellent zoölogist. His most important paper is a monograph of the classification of the order of *Rodentia,* published by the London Zoölogical Society in 1876.

— George B. Emerson, LL.D., well known for his love of nature, and as the author of a "Report on the Trees and Shrubs growing naturally in the Forests of Massachusetts" (1846), which lately passed through a second enlarged and illustrated edition, died in Boston, in March. He was born in Kennebunk, Me., Sept. 12, 1797. He taught in Boston many years, wrote on educational topics, was President of the Boston Society of Natural History, and a liberal patron and friend of Science.